

HENRY DARGER -

"THE VIVIAN

GIRLS

IN CHICAGO"

Microsystems, Inc.

VOLUME

SEVEN

Microsystems, Inc.

daughters are visiting.
I am afraid something
is wrong."

"Nonsense my dear
Empress why should
there be anything
wrong? All I could
not harm your
little saintly daughters
no more than it
can harm me. They
probably want them
to make a longer
visit that's all."

The Empress said
nothing but hurriedly
left the room and
in another moment
she entered the
parlor which looked
a rather forlorn

place with the half blinds tightly closed and all the furniture done up in white muslin coverings.

A tall gentle man was standing by one of the windows and as she entered he turned and came quickly forward.

Empress Vivian "I believe"

Although she had often seen him in the street and had had business relations with him respecting the clearing of the Sese man house

this was the first time that the Empress had ever spoken to Gladys' father.

"Yes" she said in a rather tremulous voice then raising her eyes to Mr Wentworth's face and clasping her hands together nervously she added in a different tone "Mr Sese man house its case - is hopeless - you have come to tell me"

"Now my dear Empress" said Mr Wentworth very kindly and he took

her hand as he spoke
 "There is nothing to
 be alarmed about. The
 situation of the house
 is very very bad
 worse than ever
 before but we hope
 indeed we sincerely
 hope and trust there
 may not be cause
 for serious anxiety.
 Won't you sit down
 and let me tell
 you all about it?"

Five minutes later
 the Empress was
 again at Angelina's
 Kronburg side.

She was very pale
 and her lips were
 trembling but she

made a great effort to
 speak cheerfully.

"Angelina dear" she
 said "I must go away
 to Evamson at once
 to bring my daughters
 and Permod back here
 to renew their fight.

Esseman's house
 has dangerous people
 in it and the
 city authorities are
 believing my child-
 ren are neglecting
 their work and will
 cause trouble.

All people are
 threatening. Mr Went
 hworth has come
 to take me home
 with him, the power

9950

of darkness must be driven from Sese-mam house."

The Empress declared after wards that she had never really known Angelina working until that day. All Angelina's fussiness and fretful complaints about the derel and the condition of Sese-mam house holding out so stubbornly were forgotten in a moment and she seemed to have but two desires to hasten the Empress's departure.

9951

as much as possible and to (stay) say all the most cheerful encouraging things that she could think of saying during the few brief moments while the Empress was putting on her hat.

"Now my dear good Empress don't go worrying over anything unless it's impossible for my cousins to really win the fight which can't be" was her parting words as she held the Empress's hand

9952

for a moment "Remember in fact when they face the real thing the powers of darkness are the most cowardly in all creation, and as your daughters have already proven Mr. Reseman's house is not necessarily dangerous to them. We most of us had our experience with (us) it already? fancy and lived to tell the tale. I here run along? won't keep you. Drop me a line when you get the chance just to let me

9953

know how Pernod and his sisters are getting on."

Mr. Wentworth had a cab, and on it they 'drove to Mrs. Scott's Boarding house. Mr. Wentworth waited outside while the Empress ran up to her room to collect a few necessary things.

Mrs. Scott herself opened the door and accompanied the Empress upstairs.

She knew all about what had happened, Mr. Wentworth

having first called
at the boarding house
and been directed
by the landlady to
Angelina Anonlung.

The kind hearted
woman was very sorry
for her boarder and
she too spoke very
cheerfully and encour-
agingly recalling all
the cases of all
devil possessed houses
she had heard of
in which priests
had brought about
their recovery with
marvelous rapidity,
and of which many
had indeed been
scarcely bad enough

to take long in driv-
ing the power of dark-
ness out.

But though the Em-
press was really grate-
ful for the kindly
meant assurances
that there was really
nothing to worry about
and though she did
her best to smile
and appear cheerful,
her heart was very
heavy and she was
conscious of a fore-
boding of coming
trouble which made
her cold and faint
with great apprehen-
sion.

Mi Wentworth

was very kind how kind the Empress did not realize till afterwards. She did not know that he had given up an important engagement so only that he might see her and take her himself to Evanston.

He was very thoughtful for her comfort, during the short journey, and did his best to entertain her and divert her thoughts.

But Mr Worth was not happy. He had grown very fond

of Gladys little Viriam angel child friends during the few weeks that they had been inmates of his home and he had had a little talk that morning when he called at Evans's on his way to the Linden Ave Station.

At last the station was reached and the Empress with a wildly beating heart, followed her companion out of the train where a taxicab was waiting for them into which Mr Worth helped her. She was tremb-

995-8

long. so much that she found it rather difficult to keep herself.

"Drive to Jack Evans place" Mr Wentworth said to the Chauffer.

The Empress gave a start

"Jack Evans?" she repeated "Why? thought Gladys was at your house".

"No you did not understand what I told you. When it was discovered that Gladys had several times gone to the 'Crazy' house to see Evans it was feared the demons

995-9

would do something to her because she is a friend of your little daughters, and therefore Evans insisted on taking her home with him at once.

He did not want my little girl to be exposed to any phenomenal attacks. I

was sorry to have my little girl taken away from my house, but under the circumstances I felt that I could not object."

"No indeed" said the Empress earnestly "It would be terrible

if Gladys were to be attacked also like little Pauline was. Evan is the best friend your daughter has. He has been very kind to her, she has often spoken of him in her letters.

"He is a very eccentric gentleman" said Worth worth smiling. "but he has certainly taken a wonderful fancy to Gladys. I never saw a man so utterly crushed and distressed than he was when

he came to my house yesterday to tell me the danger Gladys was in. You know it was while driving with him that they met the detective who felt sure of her danger.

Violet tells me Gladys had been complaining of strange pheromones in her bedroom which kept her awake all night but no one else knew anything about it. "No Gladys never complains" said the Empress sadly.

"Oh Mr Wentworth
I hope Gladys will
escape danger she
must have been
exposed to peril
already if she
visited the 'crazy'
house so often."

A shade of anx-
iety crossed Mr
Wentworth's face
but he tried to speak
cheerfully.

"Detective Sese-
man does not seem
to think there is
very much danger
as she was too
frequently with your
holy little daugh-
ters, and beside

the phenomenon
had scarcely reached
the dangerous stage
when Evans took Gladys
home with him.
He has given Gladys
important Religious
Sacramentals to
use as a preventive
and protection from
and against the
Powers of Darkness,
and of course the
children must not
meet again until
Seseman's house
is brought back
to its normal con-
dition."

"I can't help feel-
ing a little uncomfortable

at the idea of trespassing on Evans' hospitality" said the Empress colouring 'He is their cousin I know and the son of my second brother but he is almost a perfect stranger to me' you know."

"I really don't think you need worry on that score my dear Empress. If Gladys were Jack Evans' own own grandchild he could scarcely be more devoted to her than he is now."

The Empress said

no more and in a few moments they had turned in at the gates of Evans' place.

"What a beautiful old house" exclaimed the Empress struck by the beauty of her surroundings in spite of her anxiety and suspense.

"Yes it's 'Crazy' house but quite a show of the neighborhood. Your daughters are as busy as beavers in there now. Here we are my dear Empress. You will excuse me if I don't go in with you Detective

Sesernan thinks it would be more prudent for me to keep away on account of Gladys. Ah here comes their house-keeper she will be able to give us all the latest news."

Mrs Jerry who had been waiting for them came hurrying down the steps to meet the Empress and in another moment the holy woman found both her hand taken in a warm firm grasp while a kind motherly voice said:

"It's all right my dear they're doing just as well as we can expect the 'Octopus' says and they've been asking for you all day. The demons are at a standstill"

The Empress gave a little gasp of relief squeezed the old worn arm hard and then turned to say good bye to Mr Wentworth. "I don't know how to thank you for all she said but the look that accompanied the words said a good

deal more and
Mr Wenth worth drove
away quite satisfied.

Mr Jerry led the
way led the way
into the house and
up stairs to a pleasant
room (the one occupied
by the little Evans) on
the third floor.

The Empress
wondered a little
where Evans could
be but did not
like to ask.

"Now you must
take off your hat
and freshen up
a little but before
I take you to see
your little daughter"

said the old woman
cheerfully. "Here is a glass
of milk and some
crackers. I thought you
might be hungry after
your journey"

The Empress was
not at all hungry
but she did not
want to appear un-
grateful so she made
no objection when
the house keeper in-
sisted on placing
her in a comfortable
rocker by the open
window and she
swallowed the milk
by strong will
power and to nibble
some cracker. The

9970

house keeper watched her keenly all the time she ate and drank, and the Empress could not help wondering, at the kindly almost tender expression in the old woman's face.

"My little daughters have told me all about you, and how kind you have been to them" she said trying to smile as Mrs. Jerry took away the empty glass "I think my little girls have found some very good friends."

9971

"Good friends" repeated the old woman "oh my dear you have no idea" she broke off abruptly and the tears started to her eyes. The sight of the tears started the Empress into fresh anxiety.

"Oh tell me the truth" she cried nervously springing to her feet "you are keeping something from me? I know you are. This place is worse much worse than you want me to know my daughters are losing ground and-and-"

"No, no my dear no" said the housekeeper soothingly "you must not be so frightened."

The house is awful bad much worse than I can explain. I won't deny that but houses generally are when being possessed by demons so long you know.

The Octopus would insist on waiting until the other part of the Paloo came before starting a general fight though I told him the little girls should be able to do

everything themselves just as well as not, but he is a nice sensible City Commissioner and he won't keep us out of the room the way some of the head detectives do. There isn't much I don't know about possessed houses I can tell you. It's just like a child with scarlet fever.

Didn't I help your little daughter through in the fight against the spirits in the Calverinian house at Mc Call Run when it wasn't near as easily to vanquish

9974

as Mr. Sesemann
and didn't the priest
tell me and your
extraordinary child-
ren it was one of
the worst cases they
had ever seen."

"The Calvernia
house at Mc Call
Run" repeated the Em-
press. She thought
she must have
misunderstood.

Mrs. Jerry reddened
and looked as if she
had said something
she had not meant
to say.

"Did I say
the house at Mc-
Call Run proper?"

9975

Whatever was I think-
ing of? It was mainly
at Collis Junction. I
mean I was their
assistant you see keep-
ing them through
everything from the
time they started
fighting the powers
of darkness till the
day they finally
won the victory."

"I didn't know it
was at Collis Jun-
tion. Why that means

Mildred Greenburg
City" said the
empress in the
place all right
now?"

"Yes dear it's all

right as far as we know, but Mr Seremans' house to use the slang word is in the same kind of condition what that farm house was at that time. That's why this place seems to your little girls to be possessed by the same devils that possessed the Farm manor at Collis Junction.

"Can I go to see them now?" the Empress asked him patiently.

"Yes of course if they're not too

busy. It's only just across the hall downstairs on the second floor. H up here they sleep and I thought you'd like to sleep with them. You must not be frightened if you do happen to be disturbed by a sudden phenomenon. The condition of this house pretty bad just now, the Octopus says but that does not amount to anything."

As they came out into the hall again the Empress caught sight of a tall strong figure

standing rigid and motionless by one of the windows over looking the Crazy Elm.

"Is that the famous Mr Evans?" she asked Mrs Jerry in a whisper.

The house keeper nodded and at that moment the figure turned and the Empress found herself confronted by a tall handsome young gentle man with a bulldog like expression of face whom she knew must

be no other than the kind friend about whom Gladys had so much to say. With a sudden impulse she went up to him and held out her hand.

"You are very kind to let me come" she said in a low sweet voice which caused the great man to start and wince slightly. Gladys has told me a great deal about you and I want to thank you for all your kindness to the dear little friend of my daughters.

Evans did not speak.

but he took the outstretched hand and held it for a moment in a warm firm clasp while a wave of some powerful emotion swept over his face.

"I hope we shall not be very troublesome" the Empress went on blushing, for she was beginning to find the Baron's silence somewhat disconcerting. Mr. Wentworth has told me how good you have been but -

"Never let me hear you say that again."

The exclamation was so unexpected and the voice so gruff and harsh, that the good Empress started and involuntarily drew back a step or two. "Don't you know" the Baron went on fiercely "have not they told you it was all my fault?" Let the little princesses abandon the fight for a while in this house giving the miserable demons a full chance to rally. I ought to have suspected there was something wrong from what the fool of a woman said, but?

never did. They asked to go to Evanston to rest for two weeks and I let them. A proper person I was to have the care of this house you will say."

There was no doubt as to the fact that Jack Evans was suffering keen remorse over something he thought was his fault when it wasn't even though he might have a rather peculiar way of showing it and the tender heart of the Empress was touched. "You must not

blame yourself." she said earnestly raising the blue eyes that were so much like Angelina's to his face. "It wasn't your fault. You were not used to the tricks and treachery of this crazy house."

His softened expression crept over the hard stern face. "No," said Evans huskily. "It wasn't God help me - it wasn't." And then he turned and without another word walked quickly away.

Mrs. Jerry led her down to the second

floor and cautiously walking towards the east end opened the end hall door and the Empress would have followed her in a large long very handsome library had not the housekeeper almost violently stopped her.

"For God's sake don't go in its dangerous" she gasped.

The green shades were drawn but even in the dim light the Empress could make out the various objects the two long

tables the chairs, the wall pictures the long book cases filled with books the tall fantastic looking Baloo, the little girls in the quaint custom they wore in fighting the Barashees in the Calvernuma Farm house, and standing in the center yes in the center facing her but not seeing her, could that on those be her little daughters those just now motionless little figures looking straight at the central top of the vast instrument

while Pernod swung
a large incense burner.
Dear bright little Vir-
ian Princesses whose
quick ears had never
before failed to
catch the sound of
their mothers step whose
faces had never
failed to brighten with
a glad welcoming
smile.

In spite of all her
efforts at self control
the Empress was
so awed and thrilled
that her knees shook
so that she could
scarcely stand.

The house keeper
threw a protecting

arm about her and
Pernod seeing her hur-
ried to her side.

"Are - they - are they
going to dare to do
that?" faltered the
mother with tremb-
ling lips.

"They are preparing
to give the powers
of darkness the
fight of their lives
but you must not
be frightened for
what may be the
result of the conflict."

"May I hasten them
before the fight
begins?"

In answer Mrs
Jerry called to the

little princesses

"Your mother has
come back" she called
in a kind pleasant
voice

They at first did
not hear but gen-
nie slightly turned
her head looking
in any direction but
towards the door and
as it moved slightly
the platform of the
Paloo made a faint
moan, but that was
all

"Call to her your-
self" the house-
keeper whispered
"but don't go in"
"Darlings, darlings,

don't you hear me. It
is your mother".

As if the sound of
the voice they loved
so well had power to
rouse them as no
other sound could have
done they all at one
time turned their eyes
towards the door and
then rushed forward
apprehensively.

"Mother darling"
they cried Mother
dear we are so glad
you come we are
going to work
now but please
for your safety do
not come in. It's
dangerous

9990 Chapter 72
Fagan and Sikes
once more.

Gladys tries to be
important. Mrs. Sese -
mann secret.

Sikes and Fagan
who were still in
Chicago were in con-
versation in the
same hide out where
their boy spy com-
panion had taken
Angelina. Fagan first
spoke about what
had occurred and
then came out
with this:

"Those six Virgin
brats are all bluff-
ing. They got the
police all fooled

9991

by their wily trick
and all the people
so scared by their
crazy spook and Ban-
shee stories of Sese-
mann properly that
no one dares go
near it & that the plan
of those damn brats to
keep themselves se-
cure"

"What do you mean?"
demanded Sikes
a little shrill in
his voice.

"Why didn't you
hear about all that
trash and look about
the place being
crazy with devils?
Don't you see the

paper and the magazines? Didn't and don't you hear how the people either avoid the place or the bolder ones come near for curiosity but stay at a safe distance? Aint it got the city police there crazy Catholic priests and others all upset about it too?"

But that's all boss all rattiness" said the boy companion.

"I don't think so" cried Liker. "I killed their sister Violet and the place

may really be haunted by her ghost and people think its demons. She used to haunt me" he added a little shivery.

"That's all superstition" mumbled Fagan. "You were so scared after you killed her that you imagined you saw her ghost. Her sisters are up to something very secret for their Country Cause and therefore to keep all prying eyes away from the place and have some means to make people afraid

to go near the place where
fore they can work their
plans in utmost secur-
ity. They've rented the
place and fooled Jesse-
man."

"Aw I could you prove
that?"

"Easy I have a plan:
a plan?"

"Yes a plan. The
fact that people keep
clean of the place
gives me an idea.
They may fool
every one else but
they can't fool me.
I'm going to get
that kid Angelina
and I want you
to help me."

"You mean to say
you're going to get that
kid Angelina again?"
"I am"

"You're crazy as a loon,
Jagan, Violet's ghost is
there and protect her.
I would not go in that
place for all the money
in the world."

"So you're yellow eh
Jiker?"

"I'm not yellow But
who can cope with
a crazy little ghost?
A spirit is one thing
a human being
is another."

"Aw there's no ghost
That's only bunk I
tell you I'm going

to get that little Angelina
 rat and you've got to
 help me or else -"

"Or else what?"

"You'll be branded
 by the Glan delinian
 government as a cow-
 ard and face dire
 penalties."

"But it's dangerous.
 That crazy brother
 of hers has her
 on any of his sis-
 ters under his
 eyes wherever they
 go and if we attempt
 to nab her we'll
 be doing an act
 of "how to keep
 from growing old"
 "Where there is a

will there is a way"
 said Fagan as Eiker
 shrugged his shoulders,
 "We can have the boy
 go with us and he
 can pretend to beg
 Bernad for help and
 lure him away from
 his sisters. Then I'll
 rush in grab her
 and get away."

Eiker was fully opp-
 osed to what he de-
 clared was folly as
 he did fear secretly
 that Bernad's house
 was infested by
 demons as reported,
 but Fagan's mind
 was made up and
 there was no back

ing out, Fagan was going out to make the attempt at any cost. But don't let the reader start worrying about Angelina whether Pernod is with her or not.

A day after the return of the Express Sikes and Fagan were slipping into the place by the front entrance. Sikes was dreadfully scared but did not want to show it. He too really firmly believed the people were not fooled

about the demon stories of the place, but he also absolutely believed he had killed Violet and dreaded seeing her ghost.

Really Fagan himself was not afraid of ghosts, and believed them to be very interesting subjects if they did turn out to be true.

They had no difficulty in getting into the basement from the rear when they found the front door securely locked and thence up to the first floor by

10000
1

the same stair way
by which Pauline
Fannigan and the
gar man took before
she was killed by
the phenomenon of
the hall tree.

Fagan and Sikes
passed the danger-
ous hall tree unmo-
lested but down the
hall something fled-
led past that looked
exactly like Violet
to Sikes and he
started shaking in
his shoes.

She climbed
the steps leading
to the second
floor.

10001
1

It really was Violet
but Sikes positively
believed it was her
ghost. She didn't see
the men and if she
had it would have
been a lucky day
for them.

They cautiously
followed her up the
steps, making no
noise but Sikes
was shivering like
a leaf.

When they reach-
ed the top floor the
apparition of Violet
was gone. No where
could she be be-
seen.

"See what - what

10,002

did - did - ? - ? - tell
you?" gasped Sikes.
"That - that was her
ghost."

"You're crazy -" whis-
pered I again. "You can
see through a ghost.
We couldn't see at
all through her."

They cautiously
looked up and down
the big hall but
saw no one. All
was quiet as death
in there.

"A-a-a-y began
I again to Sikes -

"Are you going out.
What and why
did you slip this
chicken gizzard

10,003

into my pocket for
just for the superstit-
ution of good luck?"

"I didn't have any
chicken gizzard with
me" exploded Sikes.

"Sh-h-h-h not so
loud. They'll hear
you. Then where
in the world did it
come from?" said
I again. "I didn't bring
this with me either."

He threw it out
an open window.

Then they started
down the hall.

"There's a door
partly open" whis-
pered I again. "I'll
bet they're in there"

19004

Cautiously the two men pushed the door open and quietly stepped in. They found themselves in a large dome like room and as they entered I again thought he saw a door across the way slowly open and shut. It was only a phenomenon but he did not know it.

"Funny sulphurous smell in here" he mused. "Sets go across anyway. It won't hurt us. a little smell."

They went on swiftly.

"Gosh" thought I like

10,005-

"this floor is shaking, I believe it's moving"

A little before this in the meantime the whole Imperial family were eating their breakfast in the library to show the powers of darkness that they were not afraid of them.

They had wheat cakes (they don't have pancakes) with small pork sausage, milk and (who) toast.

This day so far everything was quiet and serene in the most dangerous of rooms. They

19006

were telling their father what a nice little girl Gladys was, and proposing to make another of their customary visits to Sally Fielders. Then just as they said the last words of the Grace after meals and crossed themselves there came from down the hall a noise that the diners had never remembered hearing before. From the concussion windows rattled, the library floor seemed to

10007

heave the dishes on the table jumped upward and turned bottom upwards as they came down, and the books on the book shelves were shaken loose or out of place.

It was a fearful crash indeed. "Merciful heavens what was that?" cried the Empress.

"It seemed to come from the dome room down the center of the hall" put in Permod.

"Why whod be in the dome room to get trapped now

began Violet, when they faintly heard "Help, help for mercy, sake, help oh God" followed by another similar noise and then all was still. Everyone looked at each other flabbergasted.

At first no one moved. Violet then was the first to open the library door. "Come everybody" she cried "See what's wrong. Something has happened. I can feel it." They all went out, but once out

in the hall Evans was in the lead.

They raced for the dome room. Emperor Urian strong as ten men as he was couldn't budge the big dome room door.

Evans the powerful giant as he was could do no better. Then they all united their efforts but no better again.

Standing against the wall on the opposite side of the hall was a large long iron pipe with a couple of

10010

blows from this
Evans crashed the
door in.

"For Heavens sake
dont step in" he
warned tensely in
Abreannian, looking
in they beheld
an amazing sight

The immense
dome room was up-
side down, and in
the center of the
dome close to the
chandeliers lay two
men unconscious
and bleeding from
wounds.

Angelina but
not her sisters
who had never

10011

seen the men, recog-
nized them.

"Why" she gasped
horrified "they're my
kid nappers, Fagan and
Michael Sikes."

Pennod recognized
Sikes but wasn't sure
of Fagan.

At first no one
moved.

"What are they here
for and what are they
up to" he wondered
to himself.

"Because of the
condition of the
room there was
no ways of getting
in without falling
down among the

culprits and to do so would also cause them to trap themselves, as they would not be able to get up again.

It was evident that the two men were very badly if not fatally hurt but for their very lives the Viriams couldn't understand how and why they had come into the house and get caught in this craziest kind of phenomenon.

Perrod said to Violet:

"You could right the room by that

maraculous prayer".

"Yes if I was down in there with them I would," she answered.

"But see how steep the walls are descending down towards the beginning of the dome? I'd be hurt or killed trying to go down."

"I don't risk it" advised her father. "Those two fools ain't worth it."

"I'll phone the police and fire department" declared Perrod.

"Why bother them?" began Evans but Perrod was gone.

10014

like a flash.

Pennod got Detective Burns on the phone and explained to the chief of Detectives what had happened.

"Why in H-l, don't those crazy fools stay away from that 'nut' house" bellowed Burns. "I ought to let them stay there."

"But they're seriously injured protested Pennod.

"I'll phone the fire department," retorted Burns. "They alone can

10015

get the facts out. I'll send the police ambulance."

"They'll be here," Pennod said, returning.

"Those are the men who kidnaped me," said Angelone to the rest.

"Well, what ever they were after this time they probably got what they were looking for and that's 'trouble' declared Pennod with a very sarcastic grin. "As soon as we plan to start general work against the

10016

demons in this place
something always
happens to retard
our progress. And
if they are your kind
happens then they
are our prisoners.
I'll have police keep
guard over them in
the Bride well hos-
pital to where I'll
have them sent.
I recognize one of
them as a fellow
called Sikes who
attacked my sister
Violet so brutally
and in a cowardly
manner. I have
a score to settle
with him."

100017
10017

As quickly as possible
the fire department
arrived.

At first the fire-
men were at a loss
what to do. The form-
ation of the rooms
interior was not the
kind to permit the
position of a ladder
of any kind or length
and to the center of
the dome the descent
was forty.

To let themselves
down by ropes was
not advisable because
to frustrate them
the demon might
reverse the phenom-
enon and cause them

injury or possible death. The fire captain proposed to lower Violet down into the crazy room believing she would slowly reverse the phenomenon or phenomenon by her miraculous prayer but she shook her head 'no'.

"My reverse miracle will not be used on those men" she said determinedly. "They are not worth it, and besides they'll crash on me if I did it. But I got a plan if it really

works. In the library there is a long stout fish pole. If you can use your grappling hook on the end of that you may be able to pull them up after that the room can stay as it is unless the Banishes reverse it".

"We'll try" said the fire chief.

Angelina went to get the long fish pole. It was longer than she thought it was, but as she hoped much better to suit the purpose. The fireman took

10020

it, the fire hook was attached and the work began. But it was more difficult than expected. When the hook was on did get a grip, the main heavy weight made it loose from the coat and they were no nearer than before.

The firemen were beyond their patience by this time but Violet said:

"Lower me by a rope and I'll fasten it to the injured man. Then after they're out you can haul me up, or at

10021

least I'll right the room".

This was done. She was lowered carefully by the firemen just as she reached the dome and let go the rope. A queer thing happened. It was like before when she and her sisters.

The ceiling of the great circular hall began to reverse before she was aware. Her sisters shouted to her but she didn't hear.

Presently she slid down to the wall the injured

men following, and then it became evident that the whole vast room was slowly turning to right itself. First the three slid down to the wall back of them, simultaneously there came the universal click, but as the room continued to turn over they next slid down the wall and found themselves coming back to the floor.

When the big hall was in its proper position again and Violet stood

firmly upon the floor of it, the men were lying close to her.

"Good gracious" cried Violet "The Banshees beat me to it. We must peg the fallen angels for they have fooled me very, very cleverly."

Before she expected it however the floor began to tip. Instead of keeping flat and level it slanted and steepened and steeper grew the slant until Violet could not manage to stand on it. Presently the little girl and the

three men all slid down to the wall which was now under them and then it became evident that the whole vast room, was slowly turning upside down again but not quickly as it had done on the two men, and by the strange sound heard it might have been evident that the wicked barshes may have enjoyed the surprise of the little girl immensely.

First not thirst the three slid down to the wall

back of them but as the crazy room still did not stop turning over, they next slid down the wall, and Violet next found herself at the same spot on the bottom of the great dome to which she had descended by means of the rope.

Some motion of the dome caused Violet to bump against the big chandeliers which like everything else was upside down.

As soon as the turning movement

stopped and the room became stationary. Violet looked far up and observed the others looking down from the open doorway above in dismay.

The firemen were wildly gestulating. Bernad shouted down.

"Violet dear the way to conquer is to act and they who act promptly is sure to win. Use your brain dear please on this will make a pros. on for you too from which I'm sure you will not escape".

She answered "I'll rope these injured men first and you firemen can haul them up. The derrick is rounded and they have slid to the middle of it".

Soon the men are up there I'll right the room myself.

This time the room remained stationary so the two unconscious men were slowly hauled up. Then like before Violet crossed herself, closed her right eye, wiggled her left big toe, said the prayer to St. Michael, drew

10029

o deep breath and
crossed herself again.

The next moment
the room started re-
volving again a little
slower than before
and by slow degrees
she slid to the side
wall, and down the
wall to the floor.

When the big hall
was in its proper
position again.

Violet quickly strode
out rejoining the
others.

With the two men
brought into the
Bride well Hospital
Pernod and
especially Angeline

10030

told Burnn all about
them, and what Sikes
had done to Violet.

Pernod therefore
had those fellows to
be watched by police
night and day until
the time came they
could be brought to
court as two foreign
spies.

"Miss Gladys?"

"Yes Sarah"

Do you really think
it necessary to dare
take the chance to
go into that horrid
Seseman house to
defy the Bannocks?"

"Yes indeed"

"It is dangerous and the house has been possessed for over five years."

"It isn't my fault, the place has been possessed too long."

"Seems to me I wouldn't go there then for anything until you are sure you are as safe as the little Virians are, or until the demons have been evicted for good. I don't think you or papa will be very pleased when he learns you will try to do such

a rash and dare devil stunt"

Gladys gave an impatient sigh and sent the hammock flying up into the air again.

"Papa says it is a big sin to run away from bad wicked demons" she said.

"A nice way for a little girl who has so many things as you have to talk. I didn't tell you or advise you to run away from them. And if you want to go I will take you to the beach"

Then Gladys asked a question?

"Sarah how many days is it since Pernod and his sisters took to fighting the Banthees in Mrs. Resmann's house?"

"It'll be two weeks on Monday and to day's Saturday."

"That's more than ten days isn't it?"
I heard Father tell Ivan tell Papa that if our house was going to catch that condition it should begin and ought to have begun any day but it

didn't"

"Yes the ten days were up on Thursday and we hope that our place have escaped this time you ought to be very thankful."

"I'm not" said Gladys a little defiantly "I should like to see our house have dervil sickness and I wish our house had caught it."

"Miss Gladys"

"Sarah actually put down the stocking she was darning in her honor and dismay."

"I do wish it" Gladys

10036

went on rather pleased than otherwise by the sight of Sarah's shocked face, "I think it would be very interesting to see this house ill with dervie sickness and have everyone worried about us and our place as I fight to drive the devils out."

"You don't know what you are talking about" said Sarah scornfully "a little like you fighting devils and other powerful wicked spirits - I'd like to see you